

Seven Dollars Everywhere!

b o t t l e

interviews
with:
THE LUCKSMITHS
STRAWBERRY STORY
SUMMER CATS

& A Cloudberry
compilation CD!



p o c k e t

i s s u e s e v e n



"A theoretical situation in which people have casual conversation about my zine," or "I felt like drawing more than writing"

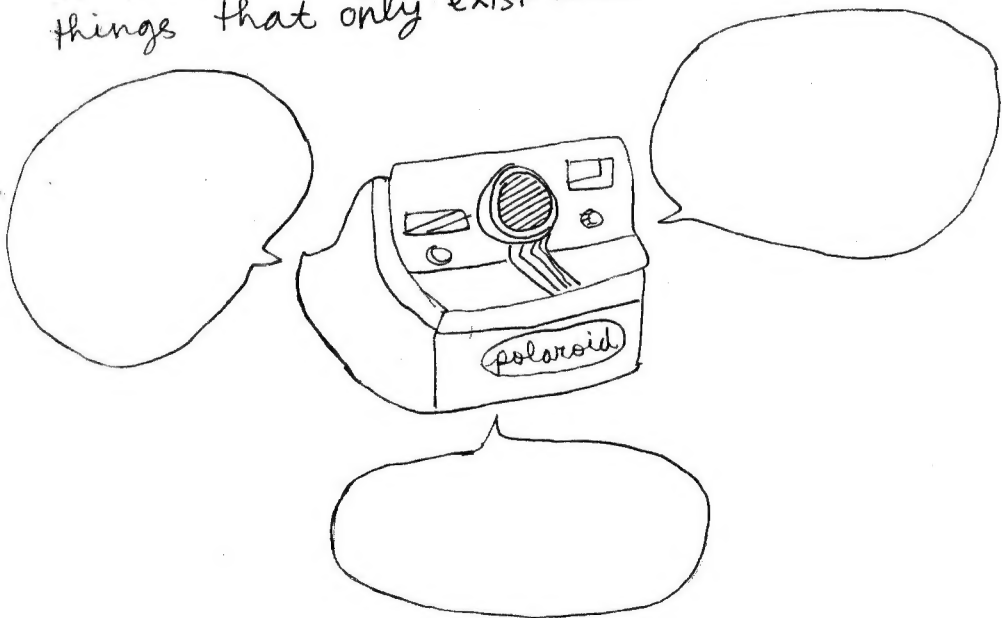
Yeah, it's been AGES. So, sorry about that! I've been being horrible & lazy and that sort of thing. No excuse, really. But here it **FINALLY** is!! And with a lovely CD, courtesy of the amazing Rogue.

I don't really have a "what I've been listening to" page this issue, but recently I've been crazy about the First Division. They're absolutely wonderful.

THANK YOU: first of all, everyone I forgot to thank last issue. Oops! And for this issue, Louise & Alex, Rogue, Kristin, Scott, Mark & Manty, Strawberry Stony & everyone who brought ads.

SAVE POLAROID

so you may or may not already know this, but they stopped making polaroid film & I'm not exactly sure what I am going to do. Polaroids are my absolute favorite--you watch them develop instantly & then it's something to keep forever--like it immediately becomes a memory. I sort of like having little things that remind me of what I would've forgotten and digital pictures just aren't like that... they're just some files crammed on a computer. In a weird way, I like polaroids for the same reason I like records - I guess I just like having things. It makes everything more personal than things that only exist online.



if you want to help out or anything,
the website's www.savepolaroid.com

THE TEENAGE POP FANZINE REVOLUTION are a bunch of kids born in the wrong time. We believe in fléxis, typewriters, cassette tapes, & all sorts of cliché things like that but MOST IMPORTANTLY, we believe in Making Things For Ourselves. We're writing our own fanzines because the rest of the world has moved on to blogs & myspace & horrible internet things like that. But we like things we can hold & anxiously show our friends. We want to write the sort of thing that makes US excited... Hopefully it makes you excited too. We like zines full of silly teenage rambling & awkward interviews & sweet notes. And we hate hate hate that you can find those is on eBay for \$20. So we're sort of trying to fix that. Because there's not a lot of pop fanzines left. Because we HAVE to or we'll die or change or grow up or something unimaginable like that.

the only place...



Sapricot! The title doesn't actually have an exclamation mark in it but I felt like writing one! Louise still has some first issues she is rather desperate to get rid of. The zine is some sort of strange combination tabloid & coloring book. First issue's got interviews with Loverlee, Strawberry Story, (surprise, surprise) and Katy of Fat Tulips. It also contains many exciting activities of the coloring variety and the general entertainment variety, and a conspiracy theory that Stephen Pastel is a vampire. Issue two has interviews with Real Live Tigers, BMX Bandits, and Simple Carnival. It also has an angry rant against a venue and no reviews. Plus exciting articles! Louise, esteemed zinewriter aged fourteen but probably fifteen by the time this zine is out, allegedly invented the crossword. Her hobbies include watching Hedwig and the Angry Inch constantly and emailing/ mailing awkward questions to popstars. She has specifically requested the word "fab" be used somewhere in this description. Fab. EMAIL- sapricotzine@gmail.com
MYSPACE- www.myspace.com/sapricot

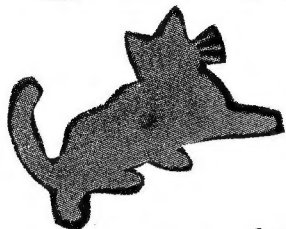
Actually she is the only one besides me to have actually FINISHED her zine. Coming soon are zines by Emanuel, Swedish Correspondant, and Alex, whose Athens misadventures you will read about later in the issue and who claims his is coming out "summerish." Emphasis, I imagine, is on the ish.



(okay, actually Emanuel has finished zines in the past, but I'm pretty sure all are sold out)

(PLEASE get in contact with us if you have something to say or complain about or if you write a zine & want to be a part of our silly revolution or even if you don't have anything at all to say. Because generally we like you guys and we want to fall in love with your bands & labels & zines & anything you do)

Summer Cats



What're your plans for the future? Anything new coming out soon?

We've got quite a busy future ahead of us actually. We've got two 7" singles coming out in May. The first is on Cloudberry and features Lonely Planet on side A and Lazy Susan on side B. It is the first single of ours that we haven't split with someone so we're really excited about it. We've also got a split single coming out on Slumberland as part of their Searching For The Now series. It will be number 4 in the series and we're sharing the release with The Pains of Being Pure at Heart. We're really excited about this because we love them so much. Hugh (our bass player) met them when he was in New York last year and it turns out that Peggy (from POBPAH) used to play with my friend Neil in New Orleans many years ago (or maybe it was in DC I'm honestly not 100% sure). The strange connection is that Neil is actually responsible for Summer Cats existing as he introduced me to Scott and urged us to start a band together. To add to the two singles we've also got a 3" cd coming out on WeePOP! Which we're recording some more tracks for in a couple of weeks. It will hopefully be released in June or so. We're also planning on going into the studio again to record some more tracks in the middle of May and if we can scrape the money together we'll be trying to record a full-length LP sometime after July. I warned you we were busy didn't I?

What's your favorite song right now?

5 My favourite track of ours at the moment is probably Let's Go! Which is coming out on the Slumberland split. I don't know that everyone would pick it but it is my attempt at writing a song like the Wedding

Present, normally I try and write all my songs wishing I was Stereolab but I took a slight deviation on this one. As far as favourite songs by other people at my favourite track of the past couple of weeks has been the new Speedmarket Avenue single "Way Better Now". It's amazing. It has a really nice video too that you can watch on YouTube. Oh that reminds me I should have added that we're also trying to film two videos for the 7"s we're releasing. Hopefully they'll be ready around June or July.

What do you think about fanzines? Any favorites?

Australia has never been all that good as a spot to find fanzines. Plus so many people that would have done fanzines once upon a time now just do a blog. But I do love a good fanzine. Of course Bottle Rocket has to be a modern favourite but if I was to relive my youth a bit I couldn't go past Chickfactor. That zine turned me on to just about every band I love today. Hearing about a new issue was always such a thrill. I also used to really like Popwatch, I would read those things from cover to cover so many times it isn't funny.

If you could do a split 7" with any band, which would it be?

STEREOLAB!!! I figured if The Cat's Miaow could do a split flexi with them then maybe there's some small chance they'll do a split 7" with us, after all we're both from Melbourne! Of course we've been pretty blessed in terms of our split 7" collaborators so far. Our first release was a split 7" with Eux Autres. Their track on that record (Other Girls) is one of the greatest pop songs of the past few years. It kills me every time I hear it. I haven't heard the Pains track that will be gracing our Slumberland split but given how much I love all their other tracks I'm going to guess it will be pretty awesome.

Best and worst things about being from Melbourne?

The worst thing about being from Melbourne is easy, and that's is location. It is just so far away from everywhere and it costs so much to leave you can't really afford to do it once a month like you

can when you live in London. The best thing about being from Melbourne would be that there are so many great bands here that it doesn't really matter that much that you can't afford to constantly be flying to New York for shows.

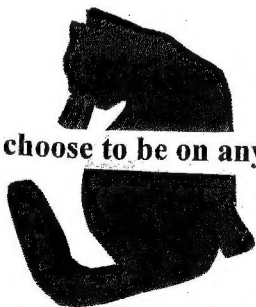
Who writes the lyrics? What's the best lyric written so far?

Scott Stevens writes most of the lyrics. Of course all the band members add things here and there or write the lyrics for their own songs but in general if Scott sings it he wrote it. He writes what I consider to be some quite amusing lyrics I don't know that I would say it is the "best" lyric written so far but I think my favourite lyrics are for discotheque. I'll let people listen to the song if they want to know what they are, putting them down on paper doesn't quite do them justice. But they do involve having your pants catch fire from too much dancing!

What's the best thing that's happened to your band so far?

Wow there really are so many great things that have happened to our band so far it would be really hard to name just one. Getting our demo reviewed on Pitchfork when we'd only played two gigs was pretty exciting. Having Spike Jonze name drop us on the radio was also cool. Getting to put out a couple of great split singles with awesome bands. Being on Slumberland; something that has been a dream of mine for years! Having a relationship with Cloudberry, Roque is one of the greatest people and it's awesome that we've had the pleasure to work with him. Meeting a ton of nice people and having them excited for your music is really just a thrill.

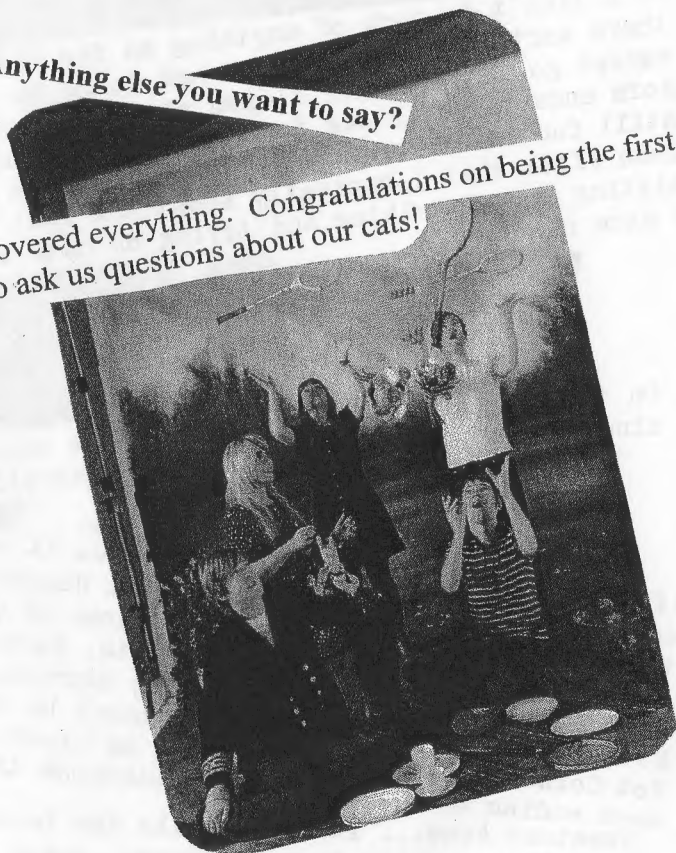
What record label would you sign to if you could choose to be on any label?



Wow that's a tough one. I think we've been pretty happy with all the labels who have been kind enough to release our music so far. Of course I have to plug my own label and say that Knock Yr Socks Off Records is a pretty awesome label. Having records on Cloudberry, Slumberland and WeePOP is just about all we could have wished for when we started things off. I guess if we could go back in time I would love to be on Rough Trade in the mid 80s. Or having something released by Sarah would be pretty damn cool, Creation, Missing Link, Glass, 53rd and 3rd, K. I could go on for hours talking about record labels I would love to be associated with. But I'm pretty happy with who we're doing stuff with right now.

Anything else you want to say?

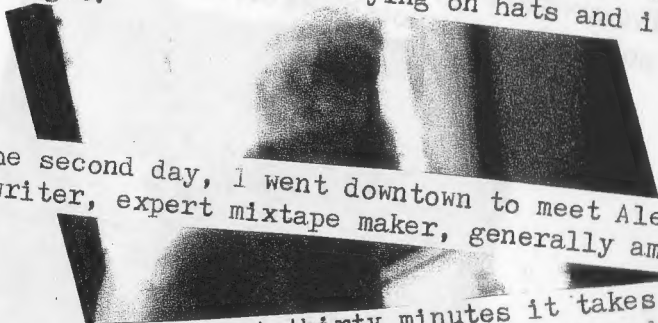
I think I've covered everything. Congratulations on being the first person not to ask us questions about our cats!



So here's a bit about my spring break in Athens, where I took some very pretty pictures, pretended to be a college student, and probably walked entirely more than is healthy.



So I didn't do much of anything on the first night (I got there sort of late because I had to go to school first...) except go to my sister's open mic night, which was in her dorm and apparently was much smaller than usual. But it was still fun and there were cookies so it was all alright. Then after that I basically spent the rest of the night sitting around talking and trying on hats and it was generally a nice night.

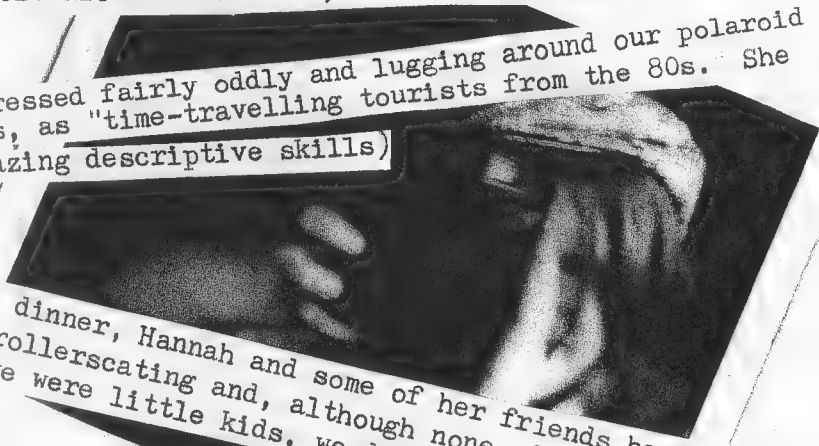


On the second day, I went downtown to meet Alex (future zine writer, expert mixtape maker, generally amusing person)

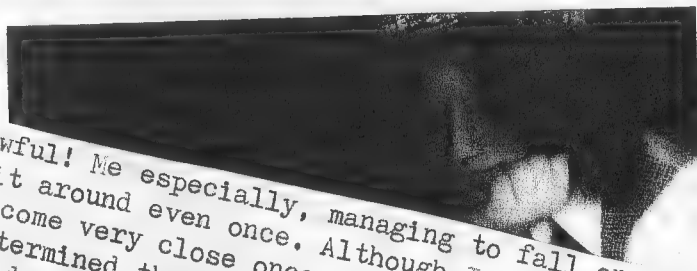
After walking the about thirty minutes it takes to get downtown, I got lunch with my sister Hannah and then went to go see Alex at Wuxtry. So the three of us ended up going to shop around at Agora and Dinomite. So after that, Hannah left us and we went off to go play Saropoly (the Sarah Records board game if you don't know) in the fab coffee shop Hot Corner. After I WON, playing as Creation (Alex sadly kent ending up at remote train stations trying to save the Sweetest Ache... it's basically the best game ever) we ended up going back to Wuxtry, where we talked for a bit with Mike HHBTM, who would not take a polaroid for Alex.

So then we suddenly realize we have twenty minutes to make the thirty minute trip back to the dorm for dinner and I only have a very vague grasp of where the dorm actually is. By some miracle, we get there right as everyone is leaving and then we walk to another ridiculously far destination (somewhere around this time, Hannah describes Alex and me,

both dressed fairly oddly and lugging around our polaroid cameras, as "time-travelling tourists from the 80s. She has amazing descriptive skills)



After dinner, Hannah and some of her friends have decided to go rollerscating and, although none of us have done it since we were little kids, we decide to go too.

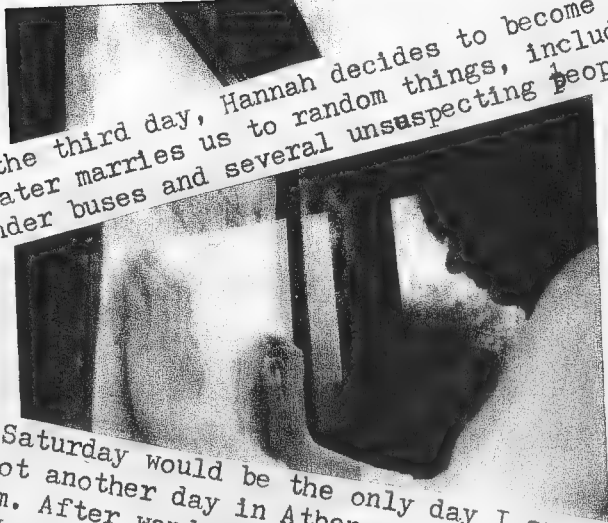


We're awful! Me especially, managing to fall on my ass before making it around even once. Although I don't fall any after that, I come very close once due to Alex pushing me. (I was fully determined that if I fell, he was coming down too. We both ended half on the floor.)



So, after watching kids half our age literally skate circles around us, Alex has to go and we go back to the dorm.

To start off the third day, Hannah decides to become a minister online (and later marries us to random things, including the lovely Weekender buses and several unsuspecting people)



I'd thought Saturday would be the only day I saw Alex, but he somehow got another day in Athens so I went downtown alone to go see him. After wandering around Athens for a few hours, we take the Weekender back to the dorm and manage to get off only one stop away from the right one.

The dorm had free food, but after careful consideration, we opted to walk more ridiculous distances for pizza at Gumby's, which was incredibly delicious.

After dinner and a lot of hanging around, Alex and I decide we should go downtown for some birthday cake (Alex turned 16 the next day) So we started walking because it was very late and we weren't sure if the buses were running. Halfway there, we see a bus and chase it to the next stop, running all the way and probably looking quite stupid)

After victoriously catching the bus and wandering a bit to get to the Grit, we eat delicious birthday cake. We decide the waiter has nice hair, and Alex insists on drawing him and leaving an incredibly large tip. We don't see his reaction.

The buses have stopped running by now so we walk back to the

dorm and hang around until we've got to say goodbye.



I start the last day in a slightly embarrassing way,
somehow locking myself out of the dorm room.

Hannah's incredibly nice and understanding room mate has
to let me back in. Probably not my best moment.

Hannah has classes this day, so I go to two of them.
(geography, which was boring, and art, which was much
more entertaining)

And that's about it for my Exciting Adventures In Athens.
Definitely worth it, although I am now poor due to spending
all my money on 7"s and a Tullycraft 12". (well, that
and rollerskating and a wool skirt)

And here's a lovely 3" cd for you, courtesy of
Cloudberry!

I really like the idea of 3" cds as the new 7"s
even though I am quite a fan of the old 7"s.
I think 3"s still accomplish the whole lovely-
tiny-handmade-bits-of-POP-! goal

So here's one for you!

(and if you feel like supporting Cloudberry more,
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celestial

"wanders from shoegaze via Field Mice to Jesus & Mary Chain in five songs" *Groove*

"a dreamy and tender melodies jangle pop" *Mixnet et Peodulo*

THE MORNING PAPER

"a must if dreamy melodies are your cup of tea" *sonic*

"fuzzy and absolutely amazing pop music" *louder than bombs*

singing bridges

"how The Breeders would sound if they played lo-fi indie pop" *indie mp3*

The easy favorite is the Lush-esque opener, *On Y Va* indiepages

DÝRÐIN

"Never has icelandic twee pop sounded as charming as this." *The Cricket*

"Dýrðin's chitlike pop/rock has instant appeal" *Grapevine*

the besties

"bright, bubbly and downright infectious" *SoundsXP*

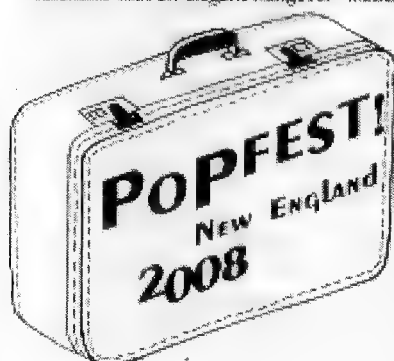
"melts the hardest of hearts" *Magnet*

"happy and melodic indiepop the way it's supposed to sound" *Pennyblackmusic*

the year zero

"gleaming lo-fi ambient anthems that suggest My Bloody

Valentine with an elegant hangover" *music.download.com*



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Strawberry Story

Okay, so, two part interview time! First we have Strawberry Story actually answering my questions, and second, we have Paul drunkenly answering questions I didn't ask!



Part One!

So has all the fanzine attention gone to your heads yet? This makes what, three? I'm impressed! Do you have any favorite zines, old or new?

We like the hand coloured ones.
Yes three including this one, it's easier than playing live and getting together to record.
I like zines that look home made. I remember how it used to be, with compilation tapes and/or flexis. Can you do flexi CDs?

On the subject of zines, what's this I hear about a Strawberry Story zine?

Yeah yeah yeah, something we're going to do and put out with a CD. It makes it a bit more worthwhile doesn't it? Paul has to get his arse (ass) in gear and write something.

So what's your best touring/recording/being-in-a-band story (or stories)?

It's amazing that "Tell Me Now" even exists. Nobody in the studio, including the engineer, could stand up.

Also, James was mistaken for Douglas from the BMX Bandits in Japan (I had similar hair). He was presented with a beautifully wrapped gift by some giggling girls and was in the process of unwrapping it when they saw the real Douglas and, realising their mistake, grabbed the present back off him, punching him to the ground and spitting on his tear-soaked face.

The last studio session Rex was asking to be spit roasted between James and Kier, the engineer. He was on all fours and everything.

So is there anything in the drunken interview you probably shouldn't have told me?

That James is a vampire, he's not happy that everyone knows that now.

What are the best and worst songs you've ever written?

"Gone Like Summer" is awesome. That one was a Rex 'n James collaboration (Rex - words, James - Music) It's hard to judge your own songs though.

I can't think of any I don't like really, although James tries to avoid listening to "The Last Thing That You Say" 'cos of the horrendous, droning noise on it (his voice).

What're your favourite recent bands/labels?



James:
Bands:

Always loved the Byrds. I started off with the "Tambourine Man", "Turn Turn Turn" stuff which is still great but then discovered the hidden gems. I can't get enough of Midlake at the moment. Trials of Van Occupanther is creamy brilliance. Like comfort-food for the ears. And Funki Porcini, genius. Get some and listen to it through headphones in bed. And you can't beat a bit of Boards of Canada, obviously. And Pavement are still probably my all-time favourite band of all time ever (Best Pavement album? Wowee Zowee since you ask)

Labels:

Not really a label fan but I do have a lot of stuff on: Warp, Ninja Tunes, Shitkatapult and you can't deny the fabbyness of Sarah. Cloudberry have the right idea too. 3" CDs are the new 7" singles.

Paul:

Bands:

Camera Obscura and the Stone Roses are my all time faves, with Belle and Sebastian too

Labels: Got to say Cloudberry and Wee Pop and Yay and Daisy Chain and Heaven and Vinyl Japan

What's the best thing you've done so far in 2008?

James: Personally, mastering the art of chapatti-making. Mmmmmmm, chapattis, I want some now. I'm going to make a load when I get home tonight *drools*

Paul: 2008 is shit, and I've done nothing good yet and nothing good has happened

Any favorite venues you've played? Tell me about playing at the Fountain!

Memories...vague...fading fast...remember...bright lights...loud noises..

The Glebe in Stoke was a great venue run by Heavy Metal Nutters. Shame nobody turned up.

The Fountain was a long way to go, that's how Paul remembers it. Lots of driving, sleeping on a floor or in a car, and lots of driving back.

Anything else you'd like to add?

If you like bottle rockets, try <http://blog.makezine.com> where you can make bottle rockets, potato cannons, water mortars and many many more.

Part Two!

All are answered by Paul to questions I didn't actually give him... Questions added in later because I thought it should have them. It's like a reverse interview! Except most are probably not what he was answering. (drunken typos uncorrected because they're funny, sorry Paul)

What are your views on Heavenly?

Yes we did play with Heavenly, and Amelia came across as a bit fickle

How do you feel about covers?

Covers? Well we've done "Made of stone", "Freight train" of course, "Secret Love", "I'm in love with a boy who doesn't know i exist" and "How do you solve a problem like Maria"

What can one expect when going to see you play?

Generally gigs involve us all getting really drunk and having a good time.

Are the rumors concerning James's vampirism true?

That's true, but James has been to the doctors for that and he's told us it's under control.

Would you consider running away and joining a gypsy punk band?

Does it look like we might?

Who do you love?

We love everyone and everything. Don't ask "What will the world do for me" ask "What can do for the world"

What's your Wish For The World?

A wish? Well I wish that for even just one minute everyone would understand what everyone else was talking about - not languages and shit, like really understand why they believe what they believe. A bit more understanding is what we all need.

What's the most important thing about you?

My favourite font is verdana

Any tattoos you'd like to mention?

I have 3 tattoos, a word from shelley jackson's book (look it up, it's called "Skin") a swallow for all the girls that don't (Sorry, crass) and a dragon. Rex has loads, James has two and I don't think Hayley has any, or at least none that she talks about.

I can get the full details off rex if you'd like, and pictures (he did but then I ran out of room)

Who'd be most likely to eat a steak?

Me and James are vegetarian, but Rex isn't and neither is Hayley



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interview with the lucksmiths

The Lucksmiths have been around for apparently almost as long as I've been alive, and have made all sorts of lovely, witty pop music. More recently they've come out with a two-disc album of assorted rarities that is definitely worth checking out. And this is the first ever microphone interview I've done! Exciting!

So tell me about your first-ever concert (as a band)

Mark: Well, coincidentally enough, it was actually 15 years ago to the day two days ago and it was pretty ramshackle. We had only really been rehearsing together specifically for that show for a few weeks and we had about half a dozen songs ready to go and the rest was just sort of pieced together and we kind of just told hilarious jokes to cover for our lack of songs. It was really fun. I can actually remember it pretty clearly.

Marty: We only got off of it cause Tali's cousins were in the Sugargliders so they were a kind of legitimate band and when they heard Tali had been kind of writing some songs with some friends they offered us a show, so were weren't really prepared.

What's the most exciting thing you've done so far this year?

Mark: Hmm, exciting... I think at the moment it's pretty exciting for us because we're getting ready to record pretty soon for our new album so we've just been investigating different places where we could record and some of them are pretty exciting, so we might end up recording it in a shack which is sort of a rainwater tank out in the wild of Tasmania so that's kind of exciting to think about at the moment.

Marty: And the writing, getting all the new songs together is always fun. It's kind of the most exciting part of being in a band in some ways, I think so, and that's exciting in itself, getting the songs together.

Mark: Yeah, we go on these exciting song-writing trips where we go for like two or three days and we just play each other songs and work on ideas and stuff and because we have these extremely exciting busy lives, we don't get much of a chance to just play each other new songs that often. So, yeah, that's pretty exciting. And we get to make pizza, which is the most exciting part.

Even more so than songwriting?

Mark: Yeah, yeah. Experimenting with pizza toppings is our favourite part.

Oh, yeah? What's your favorite pizza topping?

Mark: Well, Marty, what's your favourite pizza topping, do you think?

Marty: When we went away last weekend, I had sopressa which is like a kind of Italian salami and roast capsica and mushroom. And you know, tomato sauce and cheese.

Mark: You might have to spell that word...

Marty: Sopressa?

Mark: Sopressa!

Marty: S-O-double-P-R-E-double-S-A... it mightn't be a double P, I'm not sure... (from what I can tell from googling quickly, it's probably spelled sopressa)

Mark: My one's a little less exciting... my topping was a little less exciting because I'm vegan so I don't have any cheese or any fancy meats or anything like that on there, but Tali and I made some really delicious roasted eggplant to put on it also that was pretty tasty.

Oh, that's pretty exciting!

Mark: And Marty's got this classic marinara sauce recipe that he's really really perfected, so that was kind of the basis of all our delicious pizzas.

Marty: ...I don't think that's actually a recipe, marinara sauce. I think it's more just a can of tomato sauce slow-cooked for a long time!

Well, close enough...

Mark: Yeah, what's your favorite pizza topping?

My favorite pizza topping? I like olives, I'm pretty much boring.

Mark: Olives!

Marty: Yeah, we forgot the olives. That was the one drawback of this last pizza-making. We all forgot to buy some olives.

Oh, that's very tragic!

Mark: It was still exciting, though! Still the most exciting thing that's happened this year.

Oh, yeah, there you go! It ties back into previous questions! Perfect!

Mark: Haha, I know! I'm one question behind.

So how many new songs have you written? Can I know their song titles or are they secret?

Mark: Our new songs? You want to know about our new songs?

Yeah!

Mark: Okay, song titles, etc., and a little word about them... Marty, have you got any interest in talking about some of your songs?

Marty: One of my songs for the album is called the National Mitten Registry, and that's based on something that I read about from a Canadian newspaper that runs a service that's basically a website where people who find a lost glove or mitten on the ground can send it in and they'll put a picture of it up on the website and anyone who's lost a mitten can kind of hopefully be reunited with it. So I wrote a song, and it's my first ever song written from the point of view of a missing mitten, so that's kind of nice.

Oh, I want to hear that right now! You guys should record quickly.

Mark: And when we record, I'm going to record the bass line wearing a mitten, so it's going to be really interesting and post-modern.

And extra special!

Mark: Yeah! And extra special.

What's the craziest thing you've had a fan do for you?

Marty: We get lots of presents, especially in Japan. When we first went to Japan, we couldn't believe there'd be people waiting outside the venues when we turned up for sound check or whatever that had brought us presents or baked us cookies. I've got a little son now who's a couple of years old and

his little sandwich box actually was given to us by a girl in Japan and it contained I think, vegan chocolate cookies or something that she'd made for us. And that was kind of nice, I mean, it's not all that crazy. In fact, it's perfectly sensible and we wish more people would do it!

Mark: I guess some fans who are now our friends because they do something amazing for us... hang on, that sentence didn't really roll... Some friends who used to be fans but are now just our friends which I think are all fans took us aqua golfing. We went and played aqua golfing with these people when we were in Sydney. We went to the blue mountains and before you get to the blue mountains there's this place where you can play this thing called aqua golf... it's not as exciting as it sounds.

Marty: It's really just hitting golf balls into a big pond.

Mark: Yeah... anyone can do it, really.

Marty: Do you have the show Wheel of Fortune in the States?

Mark: One of our fans was on Wheel of Fortune as a contestant once and asked for an L for Lucksmiths.

Yeah, we do.

Oh, that's awesome!

Mark: I don't know if that's really crazy, but that was my career highlight.

Best being-in-a-band story?

Mark: Hmm, do you need pictures? I have some good pictures...

Marty: We played a show in Sydney once when we'd been together a few years. The three of us who were originally in the Lucksmiths all met in high school so we've known each other for a long time. We played this show after we'd probably been playing shows for about six or seven years in Sydney and there was a guy at the show who went to high school with us and who we hadn't seen for a long time. He was a bit of an odd guy in high school so we didn't really know him very well. And the next day in the car, we were driving back between Sydney and Melbourne; it's like a ten hour drive. And we were a couple of hours out of Sydney and we were talking about how strange it was to see this guy at the show--

Mark: He has a nickname, but we won't say his nickname, we'll change it to something to like, say, Quilty.

Marty: Quilty. Alright, we'll call him Quilty. And Tali is a little bit generally vague in these things and doesn't have a great recollection for names and faces and things and he was trying to remember who he was so we were trying to describe this guy to Tali because he hadn't seen him at the show and he couldn't really remember him.

Mark: We're like, "you know, he was kind of an odd guy, had a bit of a facial twitch, big kind of fuzzy red hair, you know, used to play the trumpet," and then, just as we were telling Tali this story, we kind of came around a bend in the highway and just at that point in the highway there's this river gorge when the highway crosses this big bridge.

Marty: It's spectacular.

Mark: It's pretty nice. It's the highlight of the drive. So we were just describing this Quilty guy to Tali and we came around the bend and we just said, "there he is." And he was standing by the side of the road, playing his trumpet into the gorge right when we went past! We basically spent the next six hours wetting our pants about it. That was the funniest thing I've ever seen in my life. Most of our amazing tour stories involve Tali and they actually usually involve him in handcuffs or something but

he doesn't like us to talk about it too often because it usually involves some just kind of vague stupidity rather than anything exciting.

What's your favorite tour that you've done so far?

Marty: Eh, I don't know. They kind of all blur into one.

Mark: How about Adelaide, summer of 94? Hm... I don't know... it's hard to remember tours as being really great. Generally speaking, any tour we've done with the Ladybug Transistor has been a lot of fun, and there's been quite a few of those now, actually. There's been five or so, including Australia. And the one we did around America half with the Ladybug Transistor and half on our own was probably the most fun. Our record label boss, Mike Babb from Drive-In records, foolhardily loaned us his Ford Thunderbird for the journey and we managed to do two figure 8s across the whole of America. I dunno if it was all in the T-bird but a lot of it was. We gave it back to him and it had like one wheel dangling off of it. It was missing two wheels! So that was probably the most fun, driving around in the T-bird.

Marty: That was pretty great. That was the first time we got to see a lot of parts of America we hadn't seen before. And it was the longest time we'd been in the States.

Mark: And that was probably the time we met Masters of the Hemisphere as well.

Marty: Probably.

Mark: Maybe, or maybe not...ah, let's just say it was. Let's pretend it was. That was fun, playing with them in Athens, with the floor falling out in the lounge room.

Do you tend to write songs based more on personal experience or on characters?

Marty: Less from personal experience, really. I mean, they're usually a bit of both but I'd say that it's more made up. The older I get, the more boring my life gets, so I don't want all my songs to get more boring with it, so I'm forced to invent more and more.

Mark: Some people love boring songs!

Marty: Hey, I've been mining that well for a long time.

Mark:...Can you mine a well?

Marty: I dunno, it's something to attempt, I guess, if I ever have time.

It's a mixed metaphor, it's okay. What're your favorite/least favorite Lucksmiths songs?

Mark: My favourite would be the National Mitten Registry, which is the new one and possibly the newest...

I think you're just taunting me because I can't hear it!

Mark: You're going to love it!

Marty: I listened to the demo the other day. It's a bit slow.

Mark: Yeah, we need to pick it up a little. It's a disco track, did we mention that? I think we only got it to 118 BPM, we need to pick it up to 120.

Marty: Hit 120 on the nose...

Mark: Yeah, hmm, least favorite... there are many.

Marty: A lot of the early ones. They're just literally unlistenable. I just can't bring myself to listen to them. I found a reference somewhere on the internet the other day to an early song of ours called "Adolescent Song of Mindless Devotion" and some guy was kind of using it as an example of my amazing songwriting and I nearly died. I very nearly sent him an email and said "Look, buddy, please."

Mark: The example he used, it wasn't even wit!

Marty: I don't know what he was thinking. That was the first song of ours I recall that we swore never to play again. We got tired of playing it. It used to be kind of just a joke song and some people used to really love it so we just kept getting hassled to play it all the time.

Mark: I think it's the songs we wrote whilst young undergraduates...they still get the undergrads. Which to us, it now is geriatric. Now isn't that funny?

So what are you going to say if I say I like that song?

Mark: Well, the thing is we used to liked it as well. We got to play it every night for a long time and we got sick of it after that. Early on, we didn't have all that many other songs to swap it up in the set list, so I think we grew tired of it after about three years of playing it every single gig.

What are your favorite albums that came out recently?

Marty: I was thinking about this and I don't think I've bought any kind of great albums this year. It's been a slow start to this year, I reckon. Um...

Mark: Hm...

Mark: I'm trying to remember back to my end-of-year list that I didn't make last year...

Marty: Yeah, my favourite albums of last year were... I loved the Aquador (?) River record. I love all their records the last few years, so that was hardly a surprise. And what else? There was something else that came out last year... I liked the Saturday Looks Good to Me record as well a lot. I dunno, I feel like it's been a while since I've stumbled across a new band and, y'know...

Mark: I think I really loved... a band that I was never that into before that had a reissue that came out last year was the Young Marble Giants, and I got really into that album. And also, Glass Candy album that came out last year. I just went and saw them play last night and they were great, and their album's fantastic.

Alright, you can tell me your favorites that came out not recently, too.

Mark: Okay, ones that came out not recently... Well, Marty did acquire a copy of Born to Run for us to listen to as a band on our last little trip to Sydney, and that was well-received by everyone. I've been listening a lot to The Ethiopians. Their compilation Everything Crash, I think that's a great album, and I just got that last year. It's great, really old school.

Tell me about the music scene in Melbourne! What's the best part of being from there?

Mark: Well, the best (and the worst) parts about being from Melbourne is that there are so many bands playing all the time, so you kind of lose track, and if you do try and keep up with them all, you end up broke and hungover a lot and just tired in general. But, yeah, there are so many great bands around here at the moment. There's a lot of great pop bands and there's also a lot of great sort of folksy bands playing at the moment and sort of countryish bands as well.

Marty: We were very fortunate to come from here. I think it's got an incredibly good live music scene and has been like that the whole time we've been playing for fifteen years, so yeah. Every now and then you sort of think it's starting to like, wane a little bit, but it's really just as strong as it's ever been.

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Mark: We just had a show on the weekend at the bicycle velodrome that we put on. Generally bands play in bars and clubs here but we're trying to branch out a little bit to do some sort of outdoors shows and some all ages shows. The all ages scene I guess in Australia isn't as strong as it is in America. It's hard for a band to go on tour and just do all ages shows because it ends up costing a lot to put them on because the venues charge a lot and things like that because they can't sell liquor unless it's over 18. Yeah, we just had the show at the bicycle velodrome and were remarking on this the other day, about other bands we could consider to play with us for the next one. The list basically went off two pages. So there's a lot of bands playing in Melbourne and if I were to go on a holiday to any city in the world if I wasn't from Melbourne, I'd probably come to Melbourne.

Oh, see, I'd come if I had money, but, no...

Mark: Oh, y'know what you've gotta do? You've got to get a flight to Hawaii and then get a cheap flight from Hawaii to Australia and vice versa.

How do you get inspired to write songs?

Mark: I dunno, actually, maybe Marty can answer that cause he had a bit of a hiatus in the songwriting.

Marty: Um, I don't really know. I mean, I don't think anyone really knows. It's a very difficult thing to work out. It's classic songwriter advice, but the more you're working with, the more you're picking up your guitar and trying to write, the more likely you are to get inspiration, surprisingly. So, y'know, if you fall out of the habit it can kind of seem like a bit of a mystery. This has been kind of hard for me in the last couple of years. Having a little boy to look after significantly impacts on the amount of time you have to read books and watch films and things like that. Any kind of stuff like that that you're exposing yourself to you can kind of get ideas from. But, yeah. I know sometimes when I haven't been writing and I'm reading the newspaper and like, say we're working on a lot of new songs for the new album and that's kind of what I'm thinking about, then I'm far more likely to read the newspaper in that state of mind and stumble across a little phrase and for it to suggest itself for a song or something like that. So you've got to kind of keep it handy, as it were.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Mark: Umm... anything else you want to say, Marty? You want to elaborate on your last longwinded answer.

Marty: No, no, I think I nailed it.



Mark: I'm just trying to think about what CDs I bought recently!

Marty: I'm going to go buy the new Grand Salvo album this afternoon. I'm certain it's going to be a life-altering masterpiece.

Mark: Yeah, have you heard of Grand Salvo?

Hm, I don't think I have...

Mark: It's really just one guy, and he's from Melbourne, and he just writes really beautiful, moving songs that have a lot of arrangements. He's like a classical music genius sort of thing. He just writes these beautiful countryish ballads.

Marty: And they're really folky.

Mark: Folky, yeah. His voice is beautiful and really quintessentially Australian.

Marty: And he's been working on this album for like five years or something. It's taken him so long to finish it and it's just come out so it's really exciting to hear it.

Well, I'll have to listen and report back!

Mark: Yeah! Well, thanks a lot, Katy!

Yeah, thanks too!

Mark: Yeah... sorry it's taken so long to get this thing together!

It's okay! Have a good afternoon! It's still my Thursday...

Mark: Yeah, it's Friday afternoon! What are you going to do, Marty?

Marty: For the afternoon? Um, well, I might try to go to buy this record. And I've got to think about my footie tips.

Mark: Yeah, Australian football season is in full swing.

Marty: There's a game tonight.

Mark: Are you going to go?

Marty: Nah, I'm just going to watch at home.

Mark: Yeah... and what are you doing? You're heading off to Athens tomorrow, are you?

Yeah! Tomorrow afternoon.

Mark: How long for?

Till Monday, and I'm going to stay with my sister who goes to school there.

Mark: Oh, great! Well, have an awesome time in Athens!

Thanks!

Mark: Say hi to the sausage guy, the hot dog guy!

Marty: I nearly had a, uh, oh, no no no...

Mark: What?

Marty: Doesn't matter, doesn't matter.

Mark: What do you need?

Marty: No...

Mark: Marty needs something. What, hot dogs?

Marty: No, s'alright.

Mark: You know, the guy next to the 40 Watt Club who has like a hot dog stand?

I actually don't, but I'll have to get my sister to take me.

Mark: He's amazing. He's got his Comeback Sauce. He always asks if you want to have Comeback Sauce on your hotdog, cause it makes you come back. I think his name's PJ... PJ's Polish Sausages.

Alright, I'll tell him the Lucksmiths say hi!

Mark: Yeah, great. He won't know who the hell you're talking about, but that'll be cool. Well, nice talking to you, and send us a copy of the zine and maybe copies of the others as well because it looks like you've interviewed some nice bands!

Alright, thanks!

Mark: Okay, see you next time we're down south!

And thanks so much for the interview!

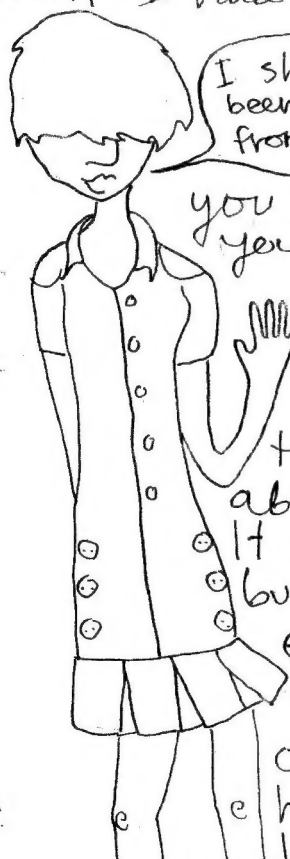
Mark: No worries! Talk to you again soon!

Credit to helping me understand bits I couldn't hear go to the fab Louise Brooks, Zinester Extraordinaire. There's still maybe one or two things I probably didn't hear right or something, but good enough for a first voice interview!

As always, I'd love to hear from anyone so please email me at batzelke@bellsouth.net!

Oh and for now I still have issue sizes if you'd like one... (\$2 US/\$2.50 elsewhere)

So I haven't really got anything else to say so I guess I'll tell you about this mixtape I'm sort of making. It is called Earl Grey Tea and if I had more room I would write



I should've been on the front cover! the tracklist. But what can you do! I wanted to draw something (Plus if you want to know more you could just ask me, I suppose?)

It's also worth noting that I am very disappointed about not going to Rip It Up because the lovely-but-sadly-gambling-addicted Emanuel bought me a plane ticket but then bet it on a horse. I assume the horse lost. Why would he lie? End!

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